BPA Fuel Cell Program Update

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Program Update:

It's official; the BPA Fuel Cell Program is no longer a development program. With the administration of the DoD Climate Change fuel cell rebate program and the Fuel Cell Education grant, the BPA Fuel Cell Program has evolved into more of an advocate role. BPA still supports field testing of systems to ensure that commercial systems meet the needs of our Customers, as well as to identify and address barriers to fuel cell technologies, but future field testing will be through the Climate Change Program and the Combined Heat and Power Consortium. We continue to work with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories SECA Program, the National Fuel Cell Research Center, Avista Labs, Global Thermoelectric, Plug Power and the Combined Heat and Power Consortium to facilitate future projects. We're also focusing on education and outreach. See below for more information on our Fuel Cell Education project.

Climate Change Fuel Cell Rebate Program:

BPA is now managing the DoD Climate Change Fuel Cell Program, under contract with the Engineer Research and Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). ERDC-CERL announced this change in management at the 2003 Fuel Cell Seminar in Miami, Florida. The goal of the Program, which has been around since 1995, is to expedite the market introduction of fuel cell systems. The Program provides incentives up to $1,000 per kilowatt of fuel cell capacity. A Request for Proposals will be announced this February, with awards in June of 2004.

Combined Heat and Power Consortium Update:

BPA is part of the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Consortium, spearheaded by Northwest Natural. The CHP Consortium has installed a 5 kW Plug Power GenSys PEM fuel cell at the Harkins House Juvenile Detention Center in Hillsboro, Oregon. A Dedication Ceremony will be held on February 18th. This one-year demonstration project includes grid-connection, heat recovery for pre-heating domestic hot water and demonstrating remote dispatching. The Consortium has also installed two Capstone microturbines: one in the 200 Market Street building, and one at Lewis and Clark College. For more info, go to http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/dg_chp/

Fuel Cell Education:

BPA is managing a US DOE Fuel Cell Education grant, for the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, in support of the Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative (NWETC). Under this grant, 200 Washington science teachers are receiving hands-on training, fuel cell curriculum and a fuel cell model car, designed for hands-on experimentation by high school students. This small car uses a photovoltaic module and a reversible PEM fuel cell to generate hydrogen. Then the fuel cell is reversed and the car is propelled using the hydrogen.

As part of this grant, we're having a Fuel Cell Poster Contest. All 8th grade students in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington are eligible to submit an essay. The winning poster artist and sponsoring teacher will each a $50 gift certificate. For more information on the Fuel Cell Education Program and Poster Contest, see http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/fuel_cell/education.shtml. NWETC has applied for an additional US DOE grant to provide this same program to 24 states, including Oregon, Montana and Idaho; we should know if we receive this grant in April.